

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings are formal drawings of Fig. 1-4. These sheets of formal drawings replace the original sheets, which included informal drawings of Fig. 1-4. No substantive new matter has been added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets with Fig. 1-4

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 13-26 have been added. Therefore, claims 13-26 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled. Therefore, the claim rejections of claims 1-12 are moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,297 issued to Hariguchi et al. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled. New claims 13-26 have been added.

Claim 13 recites a method for load balancing among a plurality of servers in a server bank comprising the following:

receiving a data packet at a packet forwarding device to be forwarded to one of the plurality of servers in the server bank;

performing a hash function using one or more identifiers for the data packet to generate a hash value;

searching a server bank table for an address of one of the plurality of servers in the server bank using the generated hash value as an index; and

forwarding the data packet to the server in the server bank using the address found in the server bank table.

Claim 20 recites similar limitations.

Hariguchi discloses a deterministic routing table including a set of hash circuits and a CAM. The routing table receives a destination address, searches for the longest matching address stored in any of the hash circuits and the CAM and outputs an output pointer associated with that destination address within a fixed predetermined time. See col. 3, lines 28-32.

Hariguchi does not disclose a method of load balancing among a plurality of servers in a server bank that includes performing a hash function using one or more identifiers for the data packet to generate a hash value, searching a server bank table for an address of one of the plurality of servers in the server bank using a generated hash value, and forwarding the data packet to the server in the server bank using the address found in the server bank table. These limitations are recited in claims 13 and 20. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 13 and 20 are not anticipated by Hariguchi.

Claims 14-19 and 21-26 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their independent base claim in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, Applicants submit that Hariguchi does not anticipate claims 14-19 and 21-26 for at least the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants submit that claims 13-26 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number
02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 12/9/04



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